

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In view of the restriction requirement, claims 1 to 48 have been elected and claims 49 to 54 have been cancelled without prejudice.

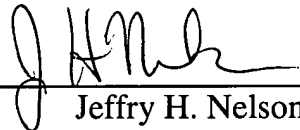
Several claims have been amended to remove as limitations lower limits directed to the rates of blood withdrawal and filtration and other parameters. These lower limits may not be necessary to working embodiments of the invention and are not needed to establish novelty.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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